

Patent

Attorney Docket No.: TS03-0608 (N1085-00213)

REMARKS**I. Status of Claims**

Claims 1, 2, 4, 13, 15, 17, 18 and 20-22 stand rejected.

Claims 3, 5-9, 14, 16 and 19 are objected to.

Claims 10-12 are presently allowed.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Action rejects Claims 2 and 15 as being indefinite. Claims 2 and 15 have been amended to recite that the transistors "enable and disable said reference circuit part and fuse detection circuit in response to said fuse detection enable signal." Support for this amendment can be found at, for example, FIGS. 4-5 and Paragraphs 41-43. It is submitted that these claims are definite and in compliance with 35 U.S.C. §112. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of these claims are respectfully requested.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

The Action rejects Claims 1-2, 4, 13, 15, 17-18 and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Fruhauf et al. (USP 5,291,139, hereinafter "Fruhauf"). In the Response to Arguments section, the Examiner directed Applicants to the disclosure at Column 2, Lines 5-25.

In an Examiner's interview on September 26, 2005, the undersigned discussed the operation of the circuit of Fruhauf and limitation that "the reference voltage being between a fuse detection voltage corresponding to an un-blown state of the fuse under detection and a fuse detection voltage corresponding to a blown state of the fuse under detection" recited in Claim 1.

Applicants submit that both the Examiner and the undersigned understood that Fruhauf specifically discloses a circuit wherein the reference voltage e_2 is equal to the voltage produced by the fuse under detection in the un-blown state. See column 3, lines 20-36. Per the Examiner's request, Applicants file this response to specifically state that the feature "the reference voltage being between a fuse detection voltage corresponding to an un-blown state of

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the fuse under detection and a fuse detection voltage corresponding to a blown state of the fuse under detection" does not include a reference voltage being at a value equal to either the fuse detection voltage corresponding to an un-blown state or the fuse detection voltage corresponding to a blown state of the fuse under detection, i.e., the reference voltage is "between" these two fuse detection voltages.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1, and allowance thereof, are respectfully requested, along with the claims that depend therefrom.

Independent Claims 13, 18 and 20 the claims also recite that "the reference voltage to be between a fuse detection voltage of an un-blown fuse under detection and a fuse detection voltage of a blown fuse under detection, thereby distinguishing a blown state from an un-blown state by comparison with the reference voltage." Because, as stated above, Fruhauf does not disclose nor suggest this limitation, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of these claims and the claims that depend therefrom.

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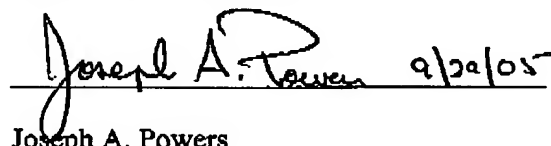
IV. Conclusion

Having addressed the Examiner's rejections, Applicants submit that the reasons for the Examiner's rejections of Claims 1, 2, 4, 13, 15, 17-18 and 20-22 and objections to Claims 3, 5-9, 14, 16 and 19 have been overcome and the rejections and objections can no longer be sustained. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and objections and that a Notice of Allowance be issued.

Should any unresolved issues remain, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number below.

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any excess payment that may be associated with this communication to Duane Morris LLP deposit account 04-1679.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of Joseph A. Powers, dated 9/29/05.

Joseph A. Powers

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